

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 13, 17, 22, 39 and 60, leaves claims 67 and 68 unchanged, cancels claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-21, 23-38, 40-59, 61-66, 69 and 70 and adds new claims 71-119. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 13, 17, 22, 30, 60, 67, 68 and 71-119.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 17, 30 and 51 as containing various informalities. As indicated above, claims 30 and 51 were canceled. Therefore, this objection with respect to claims 30 and 51 is rendered moot. Amendments were made to claim 17 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn with respect to claim 17.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As indicated above, claim 18 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that claims 67 and 68 are allowed.

Applicants further acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 9 of the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 13, 15-17, 22, 29-34, 39, 50-56 and 60 contain allowed subject matter. As indicated above, claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 29-34 and 50-56 were canceled. The remaining claims 13, 17, 22, 39 and 60 were amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims. Therefore, claims 13, 17, 22, 39 and 60 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14, 19-21, 23-28, 35-38, 40-49, 57-59, 61-66 and 69 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Saka (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,699); and rejected claims 41 and 62 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saka in view of Adachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,334). As indicated above, claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14, 19-21, 23-28, 35-38, 40-49, 57-59, 61-66 and 69 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 71-119. New claims 71-119 recite many of the same features recited in allowed and allowable claims 3, 4, 13, 15-17, 22, 29-34, 39, 50-56, 60, 67 and 68 indicated by the Examiner as being allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, the same reasons for allowance as set forth by the Examiner with respect to the above noted allowed and allowable claims also exist with respect to new claims 71-119. Accordingly, new claims 71-119 are allowable over the prior art of record along with claims 13, 17, 22, 39, 60, 67 and 68.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14, 19-21, 23-28, 35-38, 40-49, 57-59, 61-66 and 69.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 13, 17, 22, 30, 60, 67, 68 and 71-119 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, early allowance of claims 13, 17, 22, 30, 60, 67, 68 and 71-119 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1156.41270X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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